

## The Broad Ax.

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The Germans, who are lavishly entertaining Li Hung Chang, are said to be disappointed that he does not give out some of the much coveted Chinese orders and decorations, for the obtaining of which captious critics claim the fates are being given. The wily heathen Chinese, however, has thus far contented himself with merely thanking his various hosts for their hospitality.

A mountain has fallen down in Belgium. This sounds incredible, but appears to be true. It was not much of a mountain, to be sure, only about 150 feet high, but, after rocking and rolling about for several days, it actually fell down, covering the plain with debris and leaving what appears to be behind its backbone, a huge thin ridge of jagged rock still standing. The peasants are much alarmed and unscrupulous people are attempting to play upon their superstition to make them sell their land in the neighborhood.

However much the German correspondents may endeavor to talk away the object of the visit of Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to the emperor to "explain" his Moscow speech, the real truth seems evident that he has had to apologize and make his peace in a more or less humiliating manner. The offending remark was: "I am not a vassal of the emperor, I am his ally." But it seems that this did not go with William, who likes no half measures, and the result is that while the matter is now apparently adjusted with satisfaction to both sides, no doubt but that the prince had to take back water.

A carnival of suicide is taking place all over the United States. Statistics on this subject have shown for years that June is par excellence the suicide month of the year, and certainly the frequency with which these sad events have been recorded in the papers during the past month seems to bear out this theory. The remarkable feature of many of these century-end suicides is that they do not proceed from any apparent or definite purpose, but from some mysterious agency which is doubtless the general "tired-of-life" feeling which is so common at the present time of decadence and degeneracy.

The latest fashionable disease is what is called "memory blindness" and is produced by over-mental work. Its victims, while otherwise in perfect health and excellent physical condition, forget everything and when attempting to talk chatter mere nonsense. They try also to concentrate their wandering thoughts by endeavoring to put down on paper what they wish to say, but this also results in mere written nonsense. The attacks, while frequent, are of short duration, sometimes passing away in an hour. The disease is said to differ entirely from paresis, as it is curable, and all that is necessary to relieve the sufferer is to put him beyond the reach of mental work, care or worry for a few weeks. In any case it seems to be one of the undesirable products of our nineteenth century existence, hardly to be called life.

It is announced that Nikola Tesla has "perfected his vacuum tube system of electric lighting without wires, the possibilities of which he first brought to public notice five years ago in a lecture before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers. This light is whiter, more brilliant and more intense than the arc light, and is produced with a much smaller amount of electrical energy. Tesla further states that his apparatus has been greatly simplified, and he will soon have it ready for practical use." Working on different lines, Thomas A. Edison, according to the Electrical Review, has succeeded in developing a new electric lamp or vacuum tube, "by means of which the Roentgen or X rays are turned into pure light. Edison's new lamp is an ordinary Crookes tube, coated on the interior surface with crystals of a new fluorescent substance which he has discovered, similar to tungstate of calcium. The X rays, in passing through this coating of crystals, are changed to light. Very little heat is generated, and nearly the whole of the electrical energy expended is transformed into light. Mr. Edison believes that there are great possibilities in his discovery."

Mrs. Henry Ingram of Battle Creek, Mich., could get board very reasonable almost anywhere. On Saturday night she will have fasted 145 days. Her longest previous fast was 300 days, and all on account of physical affliction. Think of this you who kick when dinner is fifteen minutes late.

Under the new prison regulations in Illinois, only the worst convicts will wear stripes, those exhibiting good qualities being allowed to wear cadet gray. With this scheme there may be hope even for a hoodlum legislator.

## GUTENBERG'S INVENTION.

What the Printing Press Has Done for Mankind.

Five hundred years ago the literary Zeitgeist, inky-fingered and forlorn, cried out for help, and his cry was heard in Germany and answered by the birth of Gutenberg in 1397, who gave to the world, in 1450, its first completed printing press, says the New York World. "Four men," Gutenberg, German historian Kapp, "Gutenberg, Columbus, Luther and Copernicus, stand at the dividing line of the middle ages and serve as boundary stones marking the entrance of mankind into a higher and finer epoch of its development." From centers of discovery and invention in ever-widening circles the development has gone on. But of all the means by which the divine fiat "Let there be light" has been fulfilled—in its inner sense—through the long ages, there has been none in the material realm that has exerted an influence as powerful and far-reaching as the printing press. Compared with this discovery, which has evolved from the nebular chaos of man's thoughts and emotions the vast solar system of books, even the finding of a new continent, pales in significance. The printing of Gutenberg's discovery over that of Columbus is in itself evidence of its vaster and more urgent import. However it may be now, there was a time when we needed a printing press more than we needed another hemisphere. For there has never been any miscalculation in the order of the discoveries and inventions of the universe. The Edisons and Maxims never could have been born before the Newtons and Watts any more than man could have made his appearance in the early protozoan eras. The wonders of electricity and Roentgen rays are the culminating luxuries of invention, so to speak, and its first necessities. Added to all the bare utilitarian services it has rendered mankind, the printing press has enabled man to repeat in a spiritual sense the divine drama of creation. And many an ink-begotten hero is as living and effectual an inspiration to noble deeds as though he had lived and breathed in human form. It is, moreover, by means of their typographical ceremonies that the real heroes of every land and clime have escaped oblivion. Better than all the promises of immortality offered to Ulysses by Calypso has been the immortality conferred upon him and his comrades by the not less magical wand of the printer. "Were our mother island sunk beneath the sea," wrote Lowell, "Shakespeare would still be an immortal England." On the other hand, candor compels the admission that sinful man has made use of type—as of every other invention—for base and ignoble ends. But the most pig-headed pessimist would hardly maintain that the evil results thus obtained could be more than an infinitesimal part of the good ones. For the printing press has demonstrated in a most convincing manner that only what is good and beautiful is permanent. Every vile and morbid book has died, or eventually will die, of its own diseases, till at length authors and publishers will have learned the folly of printing such things. It is not mere fancy that sees in the steady external improvement that has been made on the first book models a symbol of an internal progress in the matter between the covers of bookdom. However much antiquarian rapture we may feel when we buy a worm-eaten old book in fifteenth century print, we cannot deny that in their superb typographical wardrobes the books of to-day as far surpass the first Gutenberg attempts as the dainty tinted gowns of a modern belle outvie the impromptu makeshift of our fig-leaved mother Eve. Concerning the respective claims of Gutenberg and Koster to the discovery of movable types, we have no desire to quibble. If they had not invented something of the kind somebody else would have done so about the same time or a little later. Be that as it may, in recognition of his service to mankind we are willing to pledge Mr. Gutenberg's health—he surely would excuse us from drinking it unless we followed it up by swallowing a blotter—in a brimming bumper of ink.

### The Chinese Warrior.

Why has it occurred to no one that the fulsome eulogies we delight to bestow upon the Japanese victors in the late war with China were rather overdone? The most casual student of the story of that war must acknowledge, in simple accordance with facts, that the Japanese had simply a walkover. There was absolutely no test of their fighting qualities during any part of the affair, because the Chinese invariably either ran away, or, through lack of convenient opportunities for so ending the "battles," just lay down to be killed or captured. The occurrence in New York of a burglary at the laundry of Wah Lee, an exile from the Flowery Kingdom, and the incidental behavior of Wah Lee himself and his craven assistants, ought to convince the Japanophile—if the word may be coined—of the absurdity of glorifying any one who vanquishes the Celestial in a game of war. Three robbers broke into Wah Lee's laundry at 1 o'clock a. m. The average white man would very likely have been asleep at that hour, and consequently an easier prey. But not so with the Chinamen. There were three of them, wide awake and hard at work. When the attacking party had entered, Wah was promptly floored with a hot flat-iron, while his two compatriots, big with discretion, fled into an inner room and scrambled hastily under the bed, elbowing each other fiercely, with an utter disregard of etiquette, in the search for safety. It is not recorded that they left their pistols protruding, but probably they did. The invaders indemnified themselves with a war tribute of \$70 drawn from Wah Lee's treasury.

## SILVER IN MEXICO.

FREE COINAGE IS BUILDING UP THAT REPUBLIC.

Edward B. Light Continues His Tour of Inspection—Finds That the Premium on Gold Is a Blessing—Four Free Coinage Mints.

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Chihuahua, July 11, 1896.—(Second letter.)—Chihuahua is a city of 30,000 inhabitants living chiefly in one-story adobe houses plastered in front and built in long rows. The face of the houses are built on the line of the narrow street, which have narrow stone sidewalks. This style of house has the advantage of being cool in summer, warm in winter, and is practically indestructible by fire. Not a spear of grass or a tree surrounds them; they are grown in the patios, or inside open courts. As in every well regulated Mexican city, their plaza is the center of town and the center of attraction. At present the plaza is being improved and when completed will be much more attractive than the average. Facing it on one side is the old cathedral, which was erected at a great expenditure of labor and money during the years from 1717 to 1789. The facade is elaborately ornamented. I climbed the eighty-six winding stone steps in the tower, where hang several bells which are rung by pulling a rope tied to their clappers, instead of revolving, as with us. One of the bells was pierced by a cannon ball when the French bombarded the city in 1866, making a rent in its side two inches in diameter. The city of Chihuahua was founded as Taramara in 1539, fully one and one-half miles from where the city now is. The location is supposed to have been changed because of the frequent floods to which it was subjected. I find this fact mentioned in none of my guide books, but I visited the ruins of the old city. Rev. Eaton, in charge of the local Methodist Mission, a very fine gentleman, by the way, arranged for me an interview with Governor Ahumada.

I learned the governor has served four years and was re-elected for four years on Sunday, the 6th inst. He is a gentleman of large stature and commanding presence, and while he impressed me as a foreigner it was only when speaking I could think of him as Mexican. I asked for the financial condition of the state and his people now, as compared with five and ten years ago. He modestly replied "To do that I must necessarily speak of my own administration, which is better said by others." Assuring him I believed he would not exceed the truth he said:

"Our state is in a very prosperous condition. Five years ago it was in debt \$350,000, of which \$150,000 was bonded and passed due and \$200,000 floating indebtedness. The bonded indebtedness, both principal and interest, has been paid and \$100,000 of the floating indebtedness and all accumulated interest, so that now we owe only between \$50,000 and \$60,000 all together. In the meantime many permanent and costly improvements have been made or are in the course of construction. For instance, the school of arts or Manual training school is now complete and is receiving its machinery and furniture. There our boys will be taught all the useful trades at the expense of the state. A school has been erected and is now in successful operation for our girls, in which they are being taught domestic work, telegraphy, stenography, typewriting, book-keeping, etc.

### Agriculture and Stock Raising.

"Our largest industries are agriculture and stock raising. Our farmers, stockmen and merchants are prosperous and contented. New industries are being established and appear to be thriving. There have been no failures worthy of notice for many years. Our commerce amounts to \$15,000,000 annually. We welcome manufacturers in new lines, and when of reasonable magnitude exempt them from taxes for five or ten years, according to the importance of the industry. The present demand for labor is in excess of the supply.

The city was to have put in a system of sewers last spring. As we were about to begin operations the officials were waited upon by citizens, who stated that there was such a scarcity of labor that if we went on with the sewers the buildings contemplated could not be erected. Upon investigating the subject the statement was found to be true, and it was decided to postpone the sewer building until fall. The introduction of the new supply of water necessitates the construction of sewerage at the earliest practical day. I hope another year will see them in use.

### Talk with a Banker.

It was my privilege to interview a number of prominent citizens, one of whom was Mr. Henreque Creel, president of Minero bank, a manufacturer, mine owner and the most influential financier of Northern Mexico. I learn his father was an American from Philadelphia and his mother a Mexican, that he was educated in Mexico, a self-made man and a multi-millionaire. The bank of which he is president has recently absorbed one bank and is about to absorb another. I said to Mr. Creel that I was desirous of ascertaining what were the conditions of Mexico commercially and financially, and especially in comparison with the conditions existing five, ten and twenty years ago, my object being to determine whether the low price of silver had been as detrimental to Mexico as the United States. He said:

"I believe the low price of silver (the high price of products) is of benefit to Mexico, because the value of silver has not changed in its relation to labor and commodities. Gold being at

a high premium, all foreign goods are so expensive we are now manufacturing here. Formerly we exported most of our silver to settle for those purchases. We are now exporting cattle, coffee, hides and other products, and by manufacturing to supply our wants and keeping our silver at home we have grown rich, our silver mining is as profitable as ever because we have free coinage, which makes every dollar worth 100 cents. The miner takes a dollar's worth of silver from his mine and with it he pays for the same help and buys the commodities as formerly.

Question—"What would be the effect upon Mexican industries if the United States were to remonetize silver?"  
Answer—"That would be a good thing for the United States, but a bad thing for Mexico. The immediate effect of a law of that kind would be that the price of silver would rise and its purchasing power increase to that of gold; as your country has more silver than gold (for you are selling silver and buying gold) you would at once become prosperous. Not so with us. We are a consuming or a purchasing people, although we mine silver largely. As the purchasing power of silver remained the same at home and increased abroad, we would naturally begin to buy abroad at a less price than we can produce for at home. So you see our growth and development would be checked and yours increased."

### Prosperous Mexico.

"As to the financial condition of Mexico, it was never better. The revenues of the federal government are in excess of the expenses for the first time in her history. Formerly the government was indebted to the banks and especially the bank of Mexico in large amounts. Two years ago the indebtedness of the federal government to the bankers was \$12,000,000. Today she has \$6,000,000 to her credit. Fifteen years ago promissory notes of the government sold at a discount of 4 per cent per month. To-day, the Mexican government can borrow more money than she wants at 4 per cent per annum."

In answer to the question as to what did he attribute the improved credit of the government he said:

In the first place, we continued to keep our mints open to free coinage, which gave us the needed supply of money for the transaction of business. Then silver retained its purchasing power at home but lost one-half with you. This acted as a powerful stimulant to exports, because the gold received was worth double to us the amount of the sale, at the same time it has proved as great a protector against imports by acting as an increased tariff. Then the general government has for years been on a peace footing, and the government consolidated and strengthened, so that the money and industry formerly employed in internal war can now be employed in the fostering of commercial enterprises and establishing new industries. A strong central government affording full protection to our people and capital has encouraged capital to come in, and fully \$300,000,000 of foreign gold has sought investment here, which large amount has been employed in the establishment of industries or in constructing the railroad system we have, which is being increased by the building of feeders and which will be the railroads of the future."

I asked him from what source did the government derive its revenue chiefly, to which he replied:

### Free Coinage Building Up Industries.

"Formerly the tariff taxes represented fully 75 per cent of the income of the central government. Today we receive but 40 per cent. of our revenue from that source. On the other hand, the internal revenues have increased greatly, which further demonstrates the increased wealth and progress of the republic. Again, the freight coming into Mexico is decreasing on all the railroads, while the local traffic is increasing, which furnishes additional evidence of the rapid development of our resources and the benefit to us of the low price of silver out of Mexico."

### Question—"Then I assume that Mexico is not desirous that the

### United States Restore Bimetallism?

Answer—"Certainly not. That would be the worst thing that could happen Mexico, if you should open your mints to free coinage at 16 to 1. If, however, you resume coinage at, say 24 to 1, giving a premium to gold of say 60 per cent, we could go along very well, but to open your mints at 16 to 1 would be disastrous to Mexico."

"But," I said, "Mr. Creel, if the United States resumed the coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, would not that nearly double the value of the product of your silver mines and prove of great value to Mexico?"

He replied: "No, most decidedly no. Silver going to par would not prove of much benefit to our silver mine owners, as it would have no greater purchasing power with us than now. In that case it would prove of benefit to our foreign stockholders, but not to our people. But if it did benefit our miners we would prefer to protect our stock growers and farmers, our largest producers. Our internal commerce is growing so fast we hope soon to consume all the silver we mine in it; then it matters not to us what price others put upon it."

I left Mr. Creel, feeling I had learned much for my readers to study over if they wished to grasp this question, which seems to have two sides to it.

### A Manufacturer Talks.

The next morning when passing down the street I was attracted by the sign, "Julius Meyer, Clothing Manufacturer." Thinking this factory might prove of interest I went in, and presented my card, saying I was from the States, and if agreeable I would like to inspect his factory. I was very courteously received, and shown through the factory by him. I was greatly surprised to find it fitted up in the most

modern style. From an Otto gasoline engine, to a patent cutting table, and a cutter who knew me as a manufacturer in the States. Upon return to the office I told Mr. Meyer my mission, and asked him to favor me with a short interview, which he kindly granted. He said:

"I established this business about four years ago, since which time it has grown rapidly. I am now employing eighty hands. I have lived thirteen years in Mexico and like it very well. During that time there has been a steady improvement in business, corresponding to the advance in the premium on gold. If the premium on gold would advance, business would become proportionately more profitable. If the premium grew less, it would have the effect to check our prosperity. The premium on gold is not the sole cause of our prosperity, but is a prominent factor. Our railroads have helped as much; so has the increased stability of our government. My business is also more prosperous because of our tariff, which affords a liberal protection. On the material necessary for making a dozen pair of overalls the tariff is about \$4.00, while on the overalls it is \$12.00 Mexican money, or, say \$6.00 in gold. The protection afforded by the high exchange is also of great benefit, and is equal to the cost of the article in the United States, say \$7.50 per dozen pair."

Question: "How would it affect your business if the United States should remonetize silver and bring gold to par?"

Answer: "I should then expect pretty lively competition from that country which might cause me to close my factory. I am convinced I cannot manufacture as cheap as you do."

In answer to several questions, Mr. Meyer said: "I pay my women 75 cents per day on the average. Ten—yes five years ago—these women had no opportunity to secure work other than in the field, or doing some menial employment. That is what the United States did for Mexico when it demonetized silver and repealed the Sherman law; it may have been hard on the States, but it was of great benefit to us. It should be known that 75 cents per day means far more to these people of economic habits than to your people, who live much more expensively. I sell all goods for cash. Collections are good and failure are practically unknown. My losses are so small from failures I do not estimate that item in expenses or profits. Our merchants and manufacturers are making money and are easy financially, as was proven when they subscribed \$250,000 with which to erect a brewery in the city, that will shut out all foreign beer, except possibly some fancy brand. Ten years ago we had not a brewery in the republic. Now we have five in operation and one a-building. Yes, if the United States consults our interest they will go along as they are now—on a gold basis."

I shall continue these interviews in my next and show the effect these conditions have had on the labor market.

Edw. B. Light.

### FINE HEIRS TO A THRONE.

#### Early Exploits of the Two Sons of the Archduke Karl Ludwig.

The two young Austrian princes who, by the death of their father, Archduke Charles Louis, are brought into the line of immediate succession, bear a popular ill repute which would have been excessive even in the Munich or Stuttgart of a generation ago, says the Saturday Review. Both are reputed to be unable to read and write correctly any one of the languages in which an Austrian ruler is supposed to be proficient. After the suicide of Archduke Rudolph, in 1889, an effort was made to train the mind of the elder of these cousins, the Archduke Francis Ferdinand. He was sent on a tour around the world and the pretense was carried to the length of issuing a record of observations which he was said to have written. All that he really derived from the journey was a malady from which he is now slowly dying. He is the prince who scandalized Vienna in his youth by halting a peasant funeral procession which he met while riding, and compelling the mourners to hold the bier while he leaped his horse backward and forward over the coffin. His uncle, the emperor, thrashed him with a stick for this exploit, although he was at the time a grown man, and an officer in the army. His brother, Otto, is the hero of another exploit, involving a public insult of the grossest kind to his own wife, for which the Austrians were delighted to learn that he also felt the emperor's cane. In explanation, though not in defense, of their vicious worthlessness, it is remembered that these young men inherit not only the worst qualities of the degenerate Hapsburg blood, but are grandsons of that criminal lunatic whom Englishmen still remember—the Neapolitan "Bomba."

### In 1890.

The teacher in the primary grade had drawn the picture of a man on the blackboard and stood beside it with a ruler in her hand.

"This is a rough sketch of a man as we know him, children," she said, "but he was not always thus. You will be surprised to learn that our ancestors aimed to stand upright and that an erect carriage was sought even as late as fifty or sixty years ago."

There was a murmur of astonishment from the children that rather angered the teacher.

"I assure you it is absolutely true," she said. "These beautiful curves in the backs of the high-bred people and the extremely long neck and arms were practically unknown sixty years ago. We have made wonderful progress since then."—Chicago Post.

## BICYCLE PRIVATE MARKS.

Secret Signs by Which Owners May Identify Their Wheels in Case of Theft.

A simple device for concealing a private mark on one's wheel is suggested by John D. Carroll, chief detective of a wheelmen's insurance company. In the event of the loss of a wheel the identification of such a mark, known only to the rider, is indisputable proof of ownership, according to the New York Journal.

Mr. Carroll's plan is that every owner of a bicycle should have a private mark upon his wheel, but so concealed that the closest scrutiny by one who does not know it will fail to discover it. Instead of a mark upon the saddle or saddle post, where a thief would naturally look for it, he suggests that a portion of the enamel, about one inch square, be scraped from the frame of the machine. After all trace of the enamel has been removed, apply a coating of grease, and with pointed piece of steel, dipped in carboric acid, draw the initials or private mark through the grease. The acid follows the marking of the steel point, while the grease keeps it from spreading.

After allowing the acid to eat into the tubing the grease can be rubbed off and the mark or initials shows up plainly as if cut into the steel frame work. One coat of enamel will completely hide all trace of the mark. Should any question as to the ownership of the wheel arise the owner could by simply scratching off the enamel which covered his mark at once prove his claim. Mr. Carroll says he has known cases where wheels have been stolen from owners by their most intimate friends.

No street cars run on Sunday in Glasgow, Scotland, and now the Sabbath Alliance in Scotland is trying to prevent Sunday traffic in that city, the ground that halting on the Sabbath is a desecration of the day.

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